GREEN POWER News

WAPA's Renewable Resources Program covering green power, reports, studies and funding

WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

Welcome to the *Green Power News Update.* This is a summary of the stories that ran during **September 2016**. New stories are added throughout the month to make sure you always know what is happening in our fast-changing industry. Check back often to see what's new! *Individuals or agencies sending press releases quoted here are entirely responsible for the accuracy of their information.*

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Green Power

Learn about green power marketing at Renewable Energy Markets 2016

San Francisco, California
Oct. 16-18

Caught between customers who are concerned about sustainability and state and federal environmental mandates, power providers are being called upon to add more clean energy to their electricity supply. Whether your utility is ahead of the curve or facing a steep learning curve, Renewable Energy Markets 2016 You are leaving WAPA.gov. (REM2016) offers a variety of resources to help you meet your green power goals.

*Source: WAPA **Energy Services Bullentin**, 9/19/16*

Co-op Solar for Lower-Income Members

Think of it as the solar equivalent of a Habitat for Humanity house.

That's what happened at a Colorado co-op, where lower income members pitched in to build a community solar project that will help reduce their electric bills.

Delta-Montrose Electric Association, the Colorado Energy Office and GRID Alternatives—a nonprofit that brings solar energy to low-income families—partnered on the 150-kilowatt array.

According to GRID Alternatives, it is the largest income-qualified community solar array in the country.

Source: ECT.coop, 8/29/16

Find more publications and webinars.

Reports and Studies

Study identifies innovative utility approaches to incorporating distributed PV into planning studies

A new report from Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) identifies innovative approaches that utilities are using to incorporate distributed photovoltaics (DPV) into utility planning. "Planning for a Distributed Disruption: Innovative Practices for Incorporating Distributed Solar into Utility Planning," informs utility planning through a comparative analysis of roughly 30 recent utility integrated resource plans or other generation planning studies, transmission planning studies, and distribution system plans.

A webinar of key findings from the report will be conducted on Wednesday, October 5th at 11:00 am Pacific Time. Register for the **webinar** .

Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, 9/20/16

Presentations from Tribal Renewable Energy Workshop now online

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy and the U.S. Department of the Interior hosted a Tribal Renewable Energy Workshop Sept. 7–8, 2016, at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado.

Representatives from Indian tribes, federal and state government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and private industry gave presentations and led discussions on the burgeoning opportunity for tribes to benefit from renewable energy development on tribal lands, including:

- State, national, and international developments driving changes in the renewable energy marketplace
- Federal technical and financial assistance available to tribes interested in developing renewable energy
- Changing market dynamics, policies, and incentives that support tribal investments in clean energy development
- Tribal/private partnership opportunities
- Tribal case studies and lessons learned

Source: DOE Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, 9/15/16

The Future of Electricity Resource Planning: Report No. 6 in the Future Electric Utility Regulation series

Sept. 29
11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) presents a free, 60-minute webinar on Sept. 29 to discuss the findings of a new report, The Future of Electricity Resource Planning, by Fredrich Kahrl, Luke Lavin, Nancy Ryan and Arne Olsen of Energy and Environmental Economics, Inc. and Andrew Mills of Berkeley Lab.

This new report examines recent resource plans from 10 diverse utilities, mainly in non-restructured regions, assessing current practices and emerging issues in five areas: 1) central-scale generation, 2) distributed generation, 3) demand-side resources, 4) transmission and 5) uncertainty and risk management.

The report will be released on or before Sept. 26.

Source: Berkeley Labs, 9/8/16

Annual Technology Baseline and Standard Scenarios

NREL annually documents a realistic and timely set of input assumptions (e.g., technology cost, fuel costs), and a diverse set of potential futures (Standard Scenarios) to support and inform electric sector analysis in the United States. The products of this work, including assessments of current and projected technology cost and performance for both renewable and conventional electricity generation technologies, as well as market projections of more

than a dozen scenarios produced with NREL's **Regional Energy Deployment Systems** (ReEDS) model, are applied consistently in NREL's analyses throughout the following year.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laborator, 9/6/16

New Report Reveals Market and System Characteristics that Drive Low-Priced PV Systems to Even Lower Price Levels

Berkeley Lab Electricity Markets and Policy Group has released a new study, *What Factors Affect the Prices of Low-Priced U.S. Solar PV Systems?*, exploring the factors leading some systems to be so much lower priced than others.

A key goal for the solar industry, policymakers, and other decision makers-as exemplified by the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative-is to foster continued declines in solar costs. And yet, despite impressive recent cost reductions, there remains a considerable range of installed prices for small-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in the United States.

In the new study, researchers statistically evaluate what might drive low-priced systems to be even lower priced. The research questions are: (1) What factors are associated with still-lower prices among low-priced PV systems, (2) Are those factors different from those for median-priced systems, and, ultimately, (3) What can be done to reproduce or facilitate those conditions more broadly, to drive down U.S. PV system prices?

Source: Berkeley Lab Energy Markets and Policy Group, 9/7/16

Berkeley Lab annual solar energy reports now available

Berkeley Labs has released the latest editions of its two flagship solar energy reports, ***Tracking the Sun*** and ***Utility-Scale Solar***.

Tracking the Sun focuses on installed pricing trends for distributed solar photovoltaic systems in the United States, while *Utility-Scale Solar* focuses on the utility-scale market, describing installed prices, as well as trends related to project design, operating costs, capacity factors, and power purchase agreement prices.

Both reports, along with accompanying slide decks and data files, can be downloaded for free. Also, for the first time, the extensive underlying database of project-level data developed for Tracking the Sun is now publicly available and can be accessed through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Open PV Project data portal https://openpv.nrel.gov/search.

Source: Berkeley Lab Electricity Markets and Policy Group, 8/29/16

Funding

Energy Department Announces $29 Million Investment in Enhanced Geothermal Systems Efforts

As part of the Obama Administration’s continued commitment to the President’s Climate Action Plan, the Energy Department today announced $29 million in funding under the Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE) program for projects

awarded to teams at Sandia National Laboratories and the University of Utah. The funding will be for each team to fully instrument, characterize and permit candidate sites for an underground laboratory to conduct cutting-edge research on enhanced geothermal systems (EGS). The Sandia team will be working on a site in Fallon, Nevada, and the University of Utah team will be working at a site in Milford, Utah.

Source: US Department of Energy, 8/31/16

Energy Department Awards More Than $20 Million for Wave and Tidal Energy Projects

The Energy Department today announced 10 organizations selected to receive more than $20 million in funding for new **research, development, and demonstration** projects that advance and monitor marine and hydrokinetic (MHK) energy systems, which generate electricity from ocean waves and tidal currents. These projects will aim to improve the performance of MHK systems and advance environmental monitoring technologies that will help protect wildlife and reduce uncertainty regarding potential environmental impacts.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 8/30/16

Find more funding sources.